

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title and before line 1, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The present ~~This~~ invention concerns the connection of tubing components to pipes, and has particular relevance to air-conditioning systems.

On page 2 before the first paragraph, please insert the following:

SUMMARY

On page 2, line before line 26, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 shows an unconnected apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 shows the apparatus of the embodiment of Figure 2 in a connected state.

On page 3, above line 1, please insert the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION